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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 221403Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3294

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1527

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN (EUR) AND COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, HU
SUBJ: FONMIN PUJA--INVITATION TO VISIT U.S.

1. SINCE ARRIVING IN BUDAPEST I HAVE ALREADY HEARD VARIOUS CONVOLUTED MUTTERINGS (WHICH MAY JUST POSSIBLY BE MANNER IN WHICH MAGYARS DROP HINTS) THAT FONMIN FRIGYES PUJA SUFFERS FROM A SEVERE CASE OF WOUNDED PRIDE AND ABRASED DIGNITY.

2. IN 1972 GOH RECEIVED FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS HERE IN BUDAPEST; NOW THAT A SUITABLE TIME HAS ELAPSED, PUJA FEELS MORE THAN A LITTLE CHAGRIN THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO WASHINGTON. EMBASSY TOUCHED ON THIS MATTER PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL HERE IN ITS ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT--(PARA 1(A) BUDAPEST 1069).

3. ONE ALSO HEARS NOW AND AGAIN THAT PROSPECT OF A WASHINGTON VISIT BY FORMER FONMIN PETER WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME POINT DURING FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS' JULY 1972 VISIT. WHETHER PETER RECEIVED SUCH A "RAINCHECK" IN COURSE OF CASUAL CORRIDOR CONVERSATION, TOASTS OR FOND FAREWELLS IS A POINT WHICH WE CANNOT DOCUMENT FROM EMBASSY FILES; OUR ONLY RECORD BEING STATE 134629 OF JULY 25, 1972. AT ANY RATE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT INVITATION, INFORMAL OR OTHERWISE, WAS EXTENDED TO PETER, SENIOR HUNGARIANS MAINTAIN THAT WHEN A CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL
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OF ANOTHER COUNTRY VISITS HUNGARY OFFICIALLY, IT IS ACCEPTED

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SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST COURTESY FOR THE HOST TO RECEIVE
A RETURN INVITATION. PUJA OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT SECRETARY
WILL TENDER JUST SUCH AN INVITATION SINCE ALMOST THREE
YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE BUDAPEST VISIT BY FORMER SECRETARY
ROGERS, AND HUNGARIAN-U.S. RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED
CONSIDERABLY DURING INTERVENING PERIOD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE CAREFULLY
RESEARCH DEPT'S RECORDS (INCLUDING ESPECIALLY THOSE OF
S/S) TO DETERMINE WHETHER IN ACTUAL FACT AN INFORMAL
OPEN-ENDED INVITATION OF SOME SORT WAS EXTENDED TO PETER.
IF RESEARCH YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS, WE BELIEVE TIME HAS
COME TO THINK ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES (CONDITIONS) UNDER WHICH
DEPT MIGHT REVALIDATE RAINCHECK IN FAVOR OF PUJA. IF
RESEARCH YIELDS NEGATIVE RESULTS, PRESSURE IS EASED TO
SOME EXTENT BUT NOT ENTIRELY9,

5. COMMENT: IN HIS QUEST FOR "BETTER UNDERSTANDING"
PUJA SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO FRG LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE
AND TO FRANCE (JUNE 5-6) ON OFFICIAL VISITS. IF PUJA'S
VISITS TO BONN AND PARIS GO OFF REASONABLY WELL, I BELIEVE
TIME WILL HAVE COME TO GIVE THOUGHT TO APPLYING POULTICE
TO FONMIN'S CONTUSED PRIDE. SINCE PUJA SEEMS TO REGARD
U.S. SILENCE AS A GRATUITOUS AFFRONT TO HIM PERSONALLY
AND TO HUNGARY GENERALLY, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HIS CRAVING
FOR ACCEPTANCE AND PERSONAL RECOGNITION MEANS THAT WE HAVE
AN ADDITIONAL AND USEFUL BARGAINING COUNTER IN OUR POCKET.
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